

**PARKS, SPORTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
of the
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Parks, Sports & Cultural Affairs Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on **November 21, 2002.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Ginny Fields - Chairperson
Legislator Cameron Alden - Vice Chairperson
Legislator Angie Carpenter
Legislator Brian Foley
Legislator Bill Lindsay

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Sabatino, II - Counsel to the Legislature
Mary Skiber - Aide to Legislator Fields
Carl Yellon - Aide to Legislator Crecca
Judith Gordon - Commissioner of Parks Department
Sean Clancy - Budget Review Office
Nicole DeAngelo - County Executive's Office
Stephen Raptoulis - Parks Department
Denise Speizio - Parks Department
Greg Lauri - Parks Department
Ray Corwin - Parks Department Trustee
Michael Iadevaia - Vanderbilt Museum
Barbara Oster - Vanderbilt Museum
Craig Kessler - Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Ana Grande - Court Stenographer

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(THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:25 P.M.)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

We're going to begin the Parks Committee meeting. We are waiting for Legislator Carpenter, who said she would be late, but has not arrived

yet. We will begin with the pledge of allegiance led by Commissioner Gordon.

(SALUTATION)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Good afternoon. I think we're just going to go right to the agenda and then when Legislator Carpenter comes here, we can add her name to the majority.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

I.R. 1644 (P) A Local Law to establish a Code of Conduct for sports and recreational activities.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I.R. 1644. A Local Law to establish a Code of Conduct for sports and recreational activities.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

I believe much of the research has been done. It's not in a final form yet, we're still gathering some information, particularly about insurance. So, it is being worked on.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Motion to table.

LEG. ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0) TABLED

I.R. 1924 (P) Reappointing member of the Suffolk County Board of Trustees of Parks, Recreation and Conservation (Richard Hilary). (Caracciolo)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I.R. 1924 reappointing member of the Suffolk County Board of Trustees of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, Richard Hilary.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Legislator Fields, you had asked me at the last meeting to contact him, and I have not been able to make contact with him. But I will continue to do that, and hopefully that will be done before the next Parks Committee meeting.

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Second. All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0) TABLED

I.R. 1953 (P) Adopting Local Law No. -2002, authorizing County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation to construct dog runs at Coindre Hall in Huntington and within County parks. (Cooper)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I.R. 1953. Authorizing County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation to construct dog runs at Coindre Hall in Huntington and within County parks.

MR. SABATINO:

There's a corrected copy being worked on, Madam Chair. It's being typed, it hasn't been completed.

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I'll second the motion. All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0) TABLED

I.R. 2059 (P) Establishing taxpayer protection policy for use of county residences. (Fields)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Establishing taxpayer protection policy for use of County residences. I will make a motion to table.

LEG. FOLEY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0) TABLED

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

I.R. 2132 (P) Establish Community and Youth Services Program at Sheep Pasture Road in Port Jefferson/Setauket, New York. (Fisher)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I.R. 2132. Establish Community and Youth Services Program at Sheep Pasture Road in Port Jefferson/Setauket. That went through CEQ and Parks Trustees.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

It was approved by both.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I'll make a motion.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Motion to approve By Legislator -- did you have a question? Motion to approve by Legislator Lindsay. I'll second the motion.

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LEG. FOLEY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Do you have a question?

LEG. ALDEN:

Is this the one where we need a copy of the proposed agreement?

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

We are in the process -- you directed me at the last meeting to get an agreement done, we are in the process of doing that. We don't have it yet, but we've sent out some information to the Three Village Boys and Girls Club and we're in the process of doing that.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Another thing, they need some kind of evidence so they can secure funding and they'd like to have that by the end of the year. I think we still have time and I would feel very, very -- I think it would be very awkward voting on something where we're approving an agreement that we don't have in front of us.

LEG. LINDSAY:

If I may, Madam?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Isn't the course of events for us to push forward the resolution and if it's passed, then the actual document be negotiated or written or --

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

That's generally the way we do it, Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

That's what I thought.

LEG. ALDEN:

Just if it's -- usually if it's a license agreement, that's the way Parks Department handles things. This is a true -- either a contract or an agreement, and I would just ask Legislator -- not Legislator, Legislative Counsel, Paul Sabatino, to make a few comments on that.

MR. SABATINO:

Yes. Both Legislators are correct, it's just that it's apples and oranges. Normally what's happening is license agreements are used by Parks. In this particular case, what's contemplated is a long-term lease agreement. There have been instances in the past in which the Legislature has voted on agreements without the actual document, but I think that because of the checkered past of those situations, Legislators, you know, have raised concerns that you actually see the document before you vote.

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The better practice is to see the document before you vote, because then you know what you're approving. So, that was the whole debate from last week's Committee meeting.

This is a long term lease, it's not a license agreement. You can vote without it, you're not legally constrained to see it, but it's -- it's, you know, it's a question of judgment and the better practice really is to know what you're voting on.

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, it approves a lease.

MR. SABATINO:

Right.

LEG. ALDEN:

The resolution approves a lease. And if it's not there to look at, it's a little tough to approve it.

MR. SABATINO:

I mean a couple of years -- you're right. The concern is that if you do that, you run into trouble. The example is a couple of years ago with the Coram Health Center where you didn't have the final document and then you wound up terminating the lease a year later.

LEG. FOLEY:

That was also -- if I may, that was also due to the disreputable reputation of that particular landlord, where in this case I think we have a stellar group of -- well, stellar organization.

MR. SABATINO:
I was talking from a legal standpoint.

LEG. FOLEY:
I understand that.

MR. SABATINO:
What happened that day, there were verbal reputations, so Legislators voted on the basis of verbal representations. A year later, Legislators were upset that the representations didn't match the --

LEG. FOLEY:
Right.

LEG. LINDSAY:
May I?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
Let me just ask Counsel a question, and then my Aide is telling me that this was discharged without recommendation at the last Park's Committee meeting. Is that accurate?

LEG. FOLEY:
It might be on --

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LEG. CARPENTER:
Yes, that's right.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:
Yeah, it was. Yes, I think.

MR. SABATINO:
You know what happened, I apologize. Legislators -- what happened was this bill should have been withdrawn, because what happened was Legislator Fisher had in the intervening -- well, had prior to the last meeting, filed another copy of the bill because she was concerned that the bill was going to expire and be lost.

What happened was when you discharged the first version to the floor, based on the debate we had from two weeks ago, this bill did not become necessary. She just filed this bill as a backstop prior to that vote. And I thought her office had withdrawn it, but apparently they haven't communicated that yet to the Clerk.

So, you're absolutely correct, the first version of it with the corrected copy is already on the floor.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. Thank you.

LEG. LINDSAY:

While we're still on the issue.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I'm sorry, Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Commissioner Gordon, how far away are we from having a contract?

And

the reason why I ask that, I know at the time two weeks ago the presentation was made that it's very important to this group that this be approved before year end in order to capture certain grant money and I would, you know --

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

I would think we would be able to get it done before year end. My concern last week --

LEG. LINDSAY:

How about by the 5th of December?

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Well, that was my concern. You know, we will do our best to put pressure on to get that done, but I can't sit -- since I'm not doing it myself, I can't sit here and guarantee that it will be done by the 5th, but we will do our best to push to have that done.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Legislator Foley points out to me we do have another meeting on the 17th, but I'd hate to cut it that close, you know, in case the County Executive doesn't --

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CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Well, we still have the 5th, so if by the 5th this hasn't happened, I think we'll all know how we want to try to go with that.

LEG. LINDSAY:

But it's going to be on the agenda for the 5th now?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Yes.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

And I would just like to point out there will be two agreements, the six acre piece will be a lease, the rest of the acreage will be a

license agreement.

LEG. LINDSAY:
Okay.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
Good, because that question did come up yesterday.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:
And we are working on both.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
Great. Okay. That would help I think a lot.

I.R. 2133 (P) Extend the deadline for report by committee to Study
Common Sense Alternative Funding Mechanism for the Suffolk County
Parks System.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
I.R. 2133. Extend the deadline for report by committee to Study
Common Sense Alternative Funding Mechanism for Suffolk County Parks
System.

LEG. CARPENTER:
Motion.

LEG. FOLEY:
Second the motion.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
This is extending the deadline -- I'm not paying attention, okay.
Motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Approved.
(VOTE: 5-0-0-0) APPROVED

MR. SABATINO:
Just on 2132, just pending withdrawal, you might want to table it.
Subject to call just so it has some status.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
Okay. Then I'll make a motion to table subject to call.

LEG. CARPENTER:
Second.

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CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
And that's 2132.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Isn't that the bill that we discharged without recommendation?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

No. There are two. All in favor? Opposed? Discharged without recommendation. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0) TABLED SUBJECT TO CALL (Refer to Page 9.)

I.R. 2147 (P) Re-extending duration of Lake Ronkonkoma Advisory Board. (Crecca)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I.R. 2147. Re-extending duration of Lake Ronkonkoma Advisory Board Council.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Motion.

LEG. FOLEY:

Second the motion.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Just -- I guess just what is it more or less?

LEG. LINDSAY:

The Hamlet of Ronkonkoma is shared by three Legislators and we have an

Advisory Board that meets with the community and the three Legislative

offices to discuss problems or whatever. It's been in existence prior to me and they just want to extend it. I think it was a term thing. It's the only one that I know of its kind that's actually done by resolution. I know there are other informal groups that meet with communities, but this is actually done by resolution.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

You want to make the motion?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. We'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0) APPROVED

LEG. ALDEN:

Madam Chair, before you continue, on 2132, I believe the motion was to table subject to call?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

When you announced the verdict of that, so to speak, you said that it's discharged without recommendation.

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CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Did I?

LEG. ALDEN:

Just for the record, if you could clarify that.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I will. Change my wording to tabled subject to call, 2132.

LEG. CARPENTER:

While we're clearing up the record, I just want to apologize for being late. I was actually over at a Fire Island Safety Council meeting over on Fire Island, so it was a little tougher getting back in time, it went a little longer than I thought it was going to. So, I apologize.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

And we will, as I suggested in the beginning of the meeting, include Legislator Carpenter with the majority.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Thank you.

I.R. 2152 (P) To implement retention of Technical Consultant in connection with Forsythe Meadows property damage. (Fisher)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. I.R. 2152. To implement retention of Technical Consultant in connection with Forsythe Meadows property damage. Motion to table.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0) TABLED

I.R. 2155 (P) Modifying new investment policy for Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Trust Fund. (Cooper)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

2155. Modifying new investment policy for Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Trust Fund.

LEG. FOLEY:

Explanation.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Counsel.

MR. SABATINO:

As you recall, a couple of meetings ago you adopted a Certificate of Necessity to allow the Vanderbilt Museum to change the investment policy that was in place for the duration of the year 2002 by allowing them to -- to use realized capital gains that are attributable to a period of time that goes back prior to the beginning of the investment policy for the year 2002. That was changed from the standpoint of

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allowing access to a greater amount of the realized capital gains.

If you also recall, we had generated some letters from the investment bank, I should say the investment advisor, just to make certain that none of this would violate the prudent investor rules, which are set forth in the New York State Estates, Powers and Trust Law. That policy, as modified, will expire December 31st of this year.

If you wish to go forward for, in this case it will be a one-year period, which will be 2003, based on that new investment policy, it will still be the 1.2 million dollars. It will be drawn down, it will be access to the realized capital gains, even though they go back further in time.

And the only other changes that there will be a monthly payment of a hundred thousand dollars every month, so it will be equal payments of a hundred thousand for twelve months. That's different than the current process, which is the money is drawn down as needed.

Budget Review had just raised some concerns about that in terms of, you know, opportunity costs, but those are the three things that the bill does, and it will be for a one-year period of time.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Legislator Foley.

LEG. FOLEY:

Speaking of Budget Review, Sean, I don't see any -- either a fiscal impact statement appended to this or any memo on it. Has one been drafted for this resolution?

MR. CLANCY:

I'd actually like to apologize. I have not been in contact with this

resolution at all, I was not familiar with it and the person in our office is not available, he's in another meeting, I have multiple memos, so I can get the information. If you can give me your request of information, I can give you whatever you like.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Would it be helpful to have Barbara Oster and Michael Iadevaia to answer any questions from the Vanderbilt?

LEG. FOLEY:

Are they here to speak on this resolution?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Yes. You have a letter that was placed in front of you on the horseshoe from Lance Mallamo.

LEG. FOLEY:

I just want to hear from Budget Review about it.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I think that would be helpful.

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LEG. FOLEY:

Yeah, absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

What would you like to do?

LEG. LINDSAY:

To have those people here.

LEG. FOLEY:

Okay. If they want to come forward.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. Could you both step forward, please.

LEG. FOLEY:

Sean, through the Chair, Sean, do you know whether or not a memo has been drafted on this resolution, is there a way you can find out?

MR. CLANCY:

I will get a hold of whatever information I can, and if you can give me specific requests.

LEG. FOLEY:

On 2155, whether or not there's a memo within your office.

MR. CLANCY:
An actual memo or the fiscal?

LEG. FOLEY:
The fiscal impact statement on this.

MR. CLANCY:
Okay. I will get that.

LEG. FOLEY:
If you have any.

MR. CLANCY:
From my knowledge, I could not find one, you know, when I looked, so
I was unable to obtain that information.

LEG. FOLEY:
Okay.

LEG. ALDEN:
Because along those lines, there's some question as far as investment opportunities and things like that, some timing aspects, but also whether the money exists now that would allow us to draw down a hundred thousand dollars a month, because it has to be realized capital gain.

MR. CLANCY:
Once again --

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LEG. ALDEN:
I'm just saying those are some more of the questions and more of the analysis that we're going to need to see.

MR. CLANCY:
Okay. That's fine.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
Would you like to help us out?

MR. IADEVAIA:
Yes. Basically we understand --

LEG. FOLEY:
Say your name for the record, sir.

MR. IADEVAIA:

do My name is Michael Iadevaia and I'm an accountant independent and I
do some work for the Vanderbilt.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
Sorry I mispronounced your name.

MR. IADEVAIA:
That's okay. As far as I understand it, I understand it exactly like Mr. Sabatino explained it. We would need the hundred thousand dollars over a twelve-month period basically because of cash flow so we get a better visibility of going forward. As we stand right now, what happens is in one month we might get forty thousand and then in another month we might get a hundred sixty thousand, and that causes problems for us basically trying to budget ourselves going forward.

And as far as the realized capital gains, we understand that basically there are realized -- there are unrealized gains in the portfolio that would entitle us to the million two, the sufficient realized gains.

LEG. ALDEN:
That may or may not be, because the last report that we had there wasn't, and that was one of the reasons why we had to pass that resolution last year to allow you to dip into the principal, but are your, and I don't have them in front of me, I did have them I think at the last meeting or the meeting before that, but it showed your expenses and your income. And your expenses and income vary all
over the place. So, a hundred thousand dollars a month might not, you might not be expending that money, that exact amount, is that not correct? Because that's what your records showed.

MR. IADEVAIA:
That's correct. I mean the expenditures do fluctuate, but the majority of the expenditures are payroll and that's pretty much stable throughout the year.

LEG. ALDEN:
The other thing I have as far as the question, even as we had new members that went on your Board, we challenged them to come up
with

new ways and think outside the box as far as increasing revenues and increasing programs or whatever, some type of income that's going to come in from that, from the Vanderbilt to replace, and it is very, very -- it's unpredictable as far as when you're going to have capital gains that you can actually at that point into.

So, what plans have you made and what -- what types of things have been put forward, ideas to increase the income that you're going to try to generate from that asset?

MR. IADEVAIA:

Okay. Being an independent outsider from the Vanderbilt that just looks at the budget and the projections going forward, I don't think I'm in that position to answer that question. That would be a question that should be directed to Lance, the Director of the Vanderbilt, and probably the Board.

LEG. ALDEN:

Yes.

MR. IADEVAIA:

I really don't have an answer for that question.

LEG. ALDEN:

I just assumed you were speaking for the Board, because the letter indicated that you were, but okay.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Can you answer any of those questions?

MS. OSTER:

Well, you're interested in knowing what kind of programs, new programming we have to increase our revenue, is that it?

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, to be fair to you, you weren't here, but over the past four years, five years, we have been challenging, you know, anybody that comes that represents the Vanderbilt to come up with things, new programs, new revenue streams whether they be fund-raisers, whether they be sale of, you know, whatever you want to call it, the things that you do sell in the gift shop over there, and things like that, programs that you can develop.

So, more of that has to be done, because, you know, actually to build up some kind of funds that you could expend on a regular basis, because as we found out now, in the past two or three years, the stock market has just gone down. Before that, the stock market just went up and was generating all kinds of, you know, program income or income that you could use for the programs, capital gains. But now we're actually dipping into the trust fund, and we have in the past now I think two years, we've dipped a little bit into the trust fund itself. And that trend could continue and that's not a good way to go.

MS. OSTER:

Well, I do think you would have to speak to the Director about the

total programming package that's in place for 2003. I do know we have

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a new exhibit that is being promoted, which is helping with revenue. We also have expanded our gift shop. I'm sure he's probably talked about various things before. And I'm not sure exactly what he has talked about, so I don't feel I'm in a position to really --

LEG. ALDEN:

That's why I started, you know, I want to be fair to you too, and to ask you to answer questions like that is probably not fair.

MS. OSTER:

Well, as far as the drawdown of sort of a guaranteed amount of a hundred thousand dollars a month, is really to protect us with our cash flow. We do have a payroll right now that is exceeding that amount and it's really kind of an insurance policy that we will be able to meet that.

LEG. ALDEN:

That wasn't the -- the charts that we were given, you know, I think it was either at the last meeting or within the last two or three meetings, those weren't the charts that we were given. The charts showed some seasonal spikes in expenses --

MS. OSTER:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

-- but a lot of times it was a lot lower than a hundred thousand dollars per month and there was months on end where it was a lot

lower

than that, so I think that that's not a correct statement that your, just your payroll alone would exceed that, because that's 1.2 million dollars for the year.

MS. OSTER:

Right. Well --

LEG. ALDEN:

Your payroll doesn't exceed 1.2 million dollars, does it?

MS. OSTER:

Yes. It's just about right there, yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, that's not the information that was given to us last time.

MS. OSTER:

I can't help you, I don't know that information.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay.

MS. OSTER:
I just know that that's what the payroll is.

LEG. ALDEN:
We were given expense sheets last time, you know, actual I guess they were after-the-fact look back type of expense sheets, so -- and there

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was a spreadsheet that was given out.

MS. OSTER:
Well, we do have an increase in payroll over the summer, because that's our busiest time of the year.

LEG. ALDEN:
What are your total expenses at the Vanderbilt?

MS. OSTER:
Well --

MR. IADEVAIA:
It's about two million something.

MS. OSTER:
Yeah. I mean it's pretty close to --

MR. IADEVAIA:
Can I just be excused and get my briefcase?

LEG. ALDEN:
Yes. Do whatever you have to do.

MS. OSTER:
But I do know the parole is over a hundred thousand a month. And that was one of the reasons that it was imperative to us to have that sort of guarantee.

MR. IADEVAIA:
Our payroll for this year is projected to be about a million three.

LEG. ALDEN:
What's the total expenses?

MR. IADEVAIA:

This is a projection, the total expenses about two million four.

LEG. ALDEN:

All right. Just on this resolution, I think this is -- we're premature in doing anything on this today, we still have, what is it, two meetings, we still have two general sessions before the end of the year and I think that we need a lot more information.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Will Lance be back?

MS. OSTER:

Yes, he'll be back next week.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

So do you want to table this?

LEG. ALDEN:

Plus that will give Budget Review a chance to do their work too.

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CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All right. I think it's -- Paul, did you have something?

MR. SABATINO:

Just one other thing I meant to put on the record before, and I apologize for forgetting it or omitting it, but Budget Review did get a statement from Fleet, which is the investment advisor, saying that this was one of the concerns, that the corpus can't, meaning that the principal assets left behind in the trust, can't shrink below 12.2 million dollars in order to sustain this policy. So, that's the bottom number. As long as the asset value at least stays a 12.2 or greater, you will be able to sustain it. But that was one of the issues that was raised two meetings ago and we finally got some documentation.

LEG. ALDEN:

And that's a little speculative, whether your stock market value is going to stay up at any level.

MR. SABATINO:

It was a important question that was raised, I wanted the record to be clear on it.

LEG. ALDEN:

Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Why don't we table this until the next meeting when Lance can come

back, until Sean from Budget Review can give us more of the information that we need in order to make an educated guess or determination and we'll let it go one more time for tabling and maybe you can come back too in case we need answers. Okay? So I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. ALDEN:
Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
Second by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Opposed? Tabled.
(VOTE: 5-0-0-0) TABLED

LEG. CARPENTER:
Did you have something you wanted to add?

MR. IADEVAIA:
I just wanted to add, you know, I have our audited financial statement from our accountants, and last year the payroll was a million two-twenty, last year.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
And what was it this year?

MR. IADEVAIA:
This year we're projecting about a million three, because we added, I think we added someone for marketing, for fund-raising.

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CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
Okay.

MR. IADEVAIA:
That increased our payroll.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
Okay. So you'll supply us with some of that information next time also, okay?

MR. IADEVAIA:
Okay.

LEG. FOLEY:
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
Thank you. We tabled that.

I.R. 2191 (P) Amending the 2002 Capital Budget and Program and

appropriating funds in connection with improvements at Greene's Creek (NYCONN) County Park (CP 7183). (County Executive)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I.R. 2191. Amending the 2002 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with improvements at Greene's Creek (NYCONN) County Park. I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0) APPROVED

I.R. 2214 (P) Appropriating funds in connection with the construction of a maintenance building at Timber Point County Park (CP 7173). (County Executive)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I.R. 2214. Appropriating funds in connection with the construction of a maintenance building at Timber Point County Park.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Motion.

LEG. FOLEY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0) APPROVED

I.R. 2232. Authorizing use of Bungalow No. 5 at Hubbard County Park by Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (Fields)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I.R. 2232. Authorizing use of Bungalow Number 5 at Hubbard County

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Park by Ducks Unlimited. I will invite Mr. Craig Kessler, the Biological Supervisor from Ducks Unlimited, to just tell us a little bit about this, to come up to the podium or sit next to Judy, if you like.

MR. KESSLER:

Thank you very much. I appreciate the opportunity to address the group this afternoon and speak a little bit on behalf of this resolution. I'll keep it brief since you seem to be moving through the agenda.

We have had an ongoing relationship with the Parks Department in delivering both wetland restoration programs and in conducting outdoor education, environmental education programs thus far. Ducks

Unlimited

is a private non-profit conservation organization that's national in scope and we are looking to increase our involvement here on Long Island in the arena of delivering environmental education programs and offering those -- making those available to all residents of Suffolk County as well as the recreational opportunities that would emanate from those as well.

So with that in mind, we have been discussing the possibility of strengthening our relationship with the County in a more formal way and in this particular recommendation, to utilize one of the existing County facilities that is currently an undeveloped and unoccupied County park as a home base, if you will, to begin to structure these programs in a more formal way and make them available to youth and residents of Suffolk County.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you very much for your comments. And, Madam Chair, I can't think of a better organization to have, particularly for our Parks Department to work closely with, than Ducks Unlimited, and it certainly will be an asset to the residents of our County that we have this outstanding organization involved in our County parks system. So I enthusiastically support the bill and ask to go on as a co-sponsor.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I have a question.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

First Legislator Alden and then Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. ALDEN:

I'll ask of the sponsor of the resolution, Bungalow Number 5 right now at Hubbard County Park, is that being used?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

To some extent, but not very much. Actually, Ducks Unlimited is -- holds some meetings in there now already, but that's primarily the use.

LEG. ALDEN:

What kind of condition is that in?

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

It's in good condition. It probably needs some improvements, it probably needs new heat. Oh, Ginny is smiling.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Good, I don't know about good.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Her good and my good differ. It probably needs a heating unit and some work, which I'm assuming as I'm sitting here, that Ducks Unlimited is volunteering to help us with.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Do you have photographs of the building, maybe for the rest of the --

MR. KESSLER:

I do.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Good.

LEG. FOLEY:

They're used to the outdoors, maybe you don't have to put in any heating system, they're outdoor people.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I've attended what we call Family Day or Conservation Day out there every year for the past, I don't know, four or five or six years, where Ducks Unlimited conducts the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest for all of New York State and kids from all over the State appear that day to get their prizes for the competition.

And I differ a little bit about the condition of the building, it's not something that we would say, you know, I think that it's in great condition, it's probably not.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

I said good, I didn't say great.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Yeah.

LEG. ALDEN:

But it's not a unit that's appropriate for housing or some kind of rental, no?

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Well, we didn't have -- we don't anticipate using it for housing. We didn't have that in our plans.

LEG. ALDEN:

What are all these other buildings along here?

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COMMISSIONER GORDON:

There are several buildings on that property and we've had somewhat of a Capital Program over there, we've put most of the capital money that we've had available for that particular site into the main building, which is down closest to the bay. But there are a number of, I think there might be eleven buildings on that site. Don't hold me to that, but I think that's what it is.

LEG. ALDEN:

There's four or five, it would indicate by this photograph four or five almost identical bungalows in a row?

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Yes. It was formerly used as a hunting facility and people actually came and stayed in those bungalows.

LEG. ALDEN:

The report that we asked you for at the last Committee meeting, indicated --

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

They will be included in that report, yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

For the most part, these don't have heat or water in the winter and they're probably not even built so that if you even add heat, it would probably go right out the windows and so forth. But they're tiny and -- but during the -- during the Youth Conservation Day and regular outdoor festival that they have, that building houses all of the art work for the maybe six hundred kids that send it in and they use it to kind of go through, it's up on the walls and stuff, but I'll pass these on. Did you have anything else to add?

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Well, I would just like to second what Legislator Foley said, Ducks Unlimited, led by Craig Kessler, has been an absolute joy to deal with. I wish that all of the groups that I had to deal with were as great as he and his group have been. They really -- he really has a commitment to Parks and he has a commitment to the environment and

I

thoroughly applaud that.

LEG. ALDEN:

After this is approved, you're going to I guess draw up a license agreement, is that the way you do it?

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Yes, that's what we anticipate.

LEG. ALDEN:

And the term would be?

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

I believe it says five years.

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CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

This is the first type I think in order for the Commissioner and Ducks Unlimited to move forward with that agreement. And from what my understanding is, and Legislator Guldi is co-sponsoring this also, it's in his district, they will -- this will enable Ducks Unlimited to run year round education programs, summer programs, autumn programs,

winter programs, spring programs and give us something like fifty thousand dollars in wetland restoration, and, in addition, a promise to do some things in the building with the permission of the Parks Department and in concert with the Parks Department and DPW to improve

the building. So it's --

LEG. ALDEN:

To run your winter program, you're going to need heat in the building?

MR. KESSLER:

Yeah. As a matter of fact, we just ran one of the winter programs the day after the water was turned off, so I guess what we're really asking for here is the opportunity to advance these programs for the benefit of the youth of Suffolk County, and in order to do that, it would be extremely helpful to have access to this building.

And as was suggested by the Commissioner, indeed, we have a very extensive volunteer labor force that will be more than willing to put a tremendous amount of effort into this, subject to the plans and approvals obviously of the Commissioner.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Thank you.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Just a question. I know Hubbards Park is on the east end, where exactly is it?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Flanders.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Flanders.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Is it Route 24, I think it's called.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Yes, it is. And, Legislator Lindsay, I encourage you to go and visit.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

In fact, we'll invite you to the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest Annual Family Conservation Day in, is it May 31st this year?

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

June.

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MR. KESSLER:

It's scheduled for Sunday, June 1st.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

June 1st. So that's an open invitation to everyone on our Parks Committee. Motion to approve.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Second. And I'd like to co-sponsor.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0) APPROVED

LEG. ALDEN:

Co-sponsor.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Bill, do you want to co-sponsor too, since everybody else did?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. We have everyone on the Committee as co-sponsors.

I.R. 2234 (P) Adopting Local Law No. -2002, a Local Law establishing dog and cat run policy for county parks. (Binder)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I.R. 2234.

MR. KESSLER:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

You're welcome. We look forward to more programs, possibly in all the districts of our Parks Committee.

MR. KESSLER:

If there's an interest, I do have some general materials that I'd be happy to leave with you.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Yes, definitely.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Here's the photos.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I.R. 2234, adopting Local Law No. -- establishing dog and cat run policy for County parks.

LEG. ALDEN:

I'm glad to see, first off, that cats at least were mentioned in this very serious piece of legislation that is going to require a lot of time and study on our part and, unfortunately, I don't think we're really ready to go forward today, because I think we're going to need

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some public input on this. I'd like to see members of the public come out and address us for maybe eight or fifteen or twenty hours.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Could you take this other microphone, please?

LEG. ALDEN:

So we can get a handle on this very important issue.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I have a mind to approve it just so --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Let's make a motion to approve. I want to give Legislator Alden that microphone and maybe the people that want to talk about the cats can

borrow the same microphone. What would the Committee like to do with this?

MR. SABATINO:
Public hearings are a local law.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
But we will explain more or less what it does. The other bill for a dog park really has to go through CEQ and through I believe a SEQRA review. And this one more or less asks for a group to find a park that would be appropriate and they would pay for and monitor and do all the things that we have I guess questioned. And they would have a trial in order to do that to see if dog parks really are something that we can run and run well without major problems. So, this is Legislator Binder's response to that.

The reason cat is in this --

LEG. FOLEY:
Can I ask a question?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
So I can just add, the reason cat in this is because the original law has cat in it, and that's why, that wasn't meant as a joke, it's because the original law has cat in it.

LEG. LINDSAY:
Because it raises a whole bunch of questions.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
It did to me too.

LEG. LINDSAY:
You know, is this going to become blood sport, you know, where you throw the dogs and the cats in the same run.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
I agree.

LEG. FOLEY:
Additionally too, if the dog is in a car and they're driving a dog and

a cat to the County park, is Legislator Binder then going to put in a resolution to ban smoking in the car where there are dogs and cats?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
We also have to add seatbelts in the car for the dog and the cat.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

They also have to have a green key.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I'm glad this is the last resolution, because we've just -- we've gone to the dogs.

LEG. LINDSAY:

The one part, if you read the legislation, it bans aggressive cats and dogs. And I asked Legislator Foley, how do we know they're aggressive, are we going to hire Ace Ventura?

LEG. FOLEY:

There's going to be a budget amendment in the operating budget for a pet psychologist to be part of the Parks Department.

LEG. ALDEN:

I thought maybe Legislator Foley was going to volunteer and stand there and test out the aggressiveness.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Do you want any comments from me?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

We would love it.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

I have concerns about, first of all --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Wait, Legislator Carpenter actually has a serious question.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Have you reviewed this legislation at all?

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Yes.

LEG. CARPENTER:

How would it affect the policy that's in place now at Gardiner Park where people, you know, come there now and walk their dogs, the sign's up, they have to be on a leash and that's it, they cannot be off a leash, and it seems to be working for the most part pretty well, so would this affect that at all?

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Not necessarily. No, not necessarily.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I'm not quite sure, because I think one of the -- I don't know.

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Counsel, if the law now is -- I mean, what is the law? Isn't the law that no dogs are allowed in parks?

MR. SABATINO:

The law currently states that for cats and dogs, for some reason in 1978 those two particular pets were carved out, that unless they were leashed, okay, they could only be in two places, it was the outer park, I believe, and on the beach. The exact --

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Campgrounds and outer beach.

MR. SABATINO:

So what happened was in the 1990's there was a desire to go to what are known as, you know, these dog runs, which the former

Commissioner

had worked out legislative remedy with Legislators in the West Hills County Park and in Coindre Hall, but then an issue arose just recently with regard to the actual -- the one at West Hills apparently has worked out without a problem, but at Coindre Hall for some reason, the difficulty arose and then the issue came up with regard to this previous restriction in the local law, which had to be addressed, if you're going to have the dog run in a different place in the park, and that's why there has to be an amendment to basically three pieces of legislation if you want to be able to have the runs.

And then that expanded into another debate about what about other County parks, because there was a concern that the original proposal had limited itself to Coindre Hall and West Hills. The only reason that it happened was because that's where the community had popped

up

in terms of making requests. There hadn't been a request at that time for any place else.

LEG. CARPENTER:

So the fact that at Gardiner Park right now people are permitted to walk their dogs as long as they're on a leash, are they in compliance with what we have in County law or do we need --

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

No.

LEG. CARPENTER:

-- some resolution that codifies the fact that at Gardiner Park dog walking is permitted as long as they are on that main path or in the

dog run area, and I don't mean like dog run, but there's a fenced area that they can walk them in, and that they have to be on a leash. So do we need legislation for that for Gardiner Park?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Actually, it is illegal as it stands right now for Gardiner's Park, right?

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Yeah. I believe we do have to address that, Legislator Carpenter. And I've been in contact with the County Attorney's Office and how, you know, we could proceed with this.

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CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

So, in other words, at all County parks the law I believe is for the outer beach and for campgrounds, so which would preclude you from being legal with a dog at Gardiner's Park.

LEG. CARPENTER:

All right. So, Paul, what do I need to do to have that come into compliance without causing a whole hullabaloo?

MR. SABATINO:

Well --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

That Legislator Cooper sponsors.

MR. SABATINO:

Legislator Cooper's bill --

LEG. CARPENTER:

He's calling for a dog run and I don't --

MR. SABATINO:

Legislator Cooper's bill before last night's -- Legislator Cooper's bill before last night's proposed amendments would have allowed all County parks to eliminate this problem by changing the statute not just for Coindre Hall and for West Hills County Park, but also for other County parks.

However, the request I got late last night was to convert it into two bills so each could be addressed separately. The corrected copy for the existing bill will limit itself to Coindre Hall and West Hills County Park. The second separate bill, which he's going to file for the next cycle, will deal with all the other County parks.

So, there's three ways to go or four ways to go, I guess. One way would be, you know, to co-sponsor one of those other two bills and say

you want to deal with Gardiner County Park in the context of Coindre Hall and West Hills, or you can ask to co-sponsor it in the context of the second bill, which is going to deal with all County parks and just let it flow that way.

The third possibility is to just do another bill for Gardiner County Park by itself. The fourth possibility would be to -- well, this -- Legislator Binder's bill is going to have a two year pilot program. Theoretically, you can make a change for Gardiner County Park. You know, you're going to wind up with a proliferation of -- which is okay, it's legally permissible, but you could wind up with, you know, dealing with the issue almost on a park by park basis.

I think Legislator Cooper by breaking out the bill last night was trying to say maybe --

LEG. CARPENTER:

As long as everyone is comfortable, I would just like to leave it alone and not, you know, because it seems to be working there. We've got the little plastic bag dispenser up and the whole nine yards there, it's working very nicely. I don't want to attach it to

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anything, I want this to go away.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
Legislator Alden?

LEG. ALDEN:

This question is first to Paul Sabatino. Currently, unleashed dogs, nobody can make an argument for an unleashed pet or dog or cat in any of the County parks.

MR. SABATINO:

Correct. It's got to be -- the standard -- you're absolutely right, the standard has to be on a leash. And then right now it's got to be the campground or the outer beach.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

The answer to your question is they could, unleashed or leashed, they're not allowed there.

LEG. ALDEN:

They could make an argument as Gardiner's Park that they would be allowed there, because --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

No, but it's still illegal is what I'm saying. So, you're right, I

think Legislator Carpenter is correct in saying what can be done to codify what you're doing now. You're probably right that it needs to -- we're doing something that's unlawful no matter whether we put the signs up or not, the law reads now that it is unlawful for a dog to be in a park. So in order to change that, we probably do have to --

LEG. ALDEN:

We can't just do status quo, even for Gardiner's Park, we're going to have to do a law that would change the policy law and then something specific for Gardiner's Park.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Or just change our rules and regulations for County parks.

LEG. ALDEN:

It would give you discretion.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Right. It's like saying you're not allowed to launch a boat from any of your County parks, but we kind of let everybody launch boats from that County park. You can't do that. I think you have to -- so I think maybe if --

LEG. CARPENTER:

I don't want another law.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Maybe not -- how about an amendment to the law?

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LEG. CARPENTER:

It's still a resolution it's still a whole process.

LEG. FOLEY:

How about administrative policy?

MR. SABATINO:

The statute is the statute. I mean fairness to former Commissioner Franks, he thought that he had worked out, you know, a solution with the legislation from that year. Something went wrong, at least with regard to Coindre Hall, and that's what's generated a reassessment of everything.

And quite frankly, I don't think anybody really gave a great deal of thought to where the dog and cat activity was taking place. I mean quite frankly, when I looked at the statute, I just thought everybody was okay, because I assumed that this activity was taking place at the campgrounds, but I was wrong, I mean that was a factual question.

Gardiner County Park is a good example.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

And our rules and regulations are by Legislative approval also, that, you know, we can probably adjust that. I would like the opportunity if we do that, though, that that goes before the Park Trustees also.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Maybe that's the way to approach it. If at the Park Trustee -- if I might. At the Park Trustees' meeting if you could raise the question of getting Gardiner County Park into compliance with the letter of the law as it, you know, the statute reads now.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

I will do that and speak with the County Attorney.

LEG. CARPENTER:

They can pass a resolution asking us to codify it and maybe we can do that and it would be a little less onerous.

LEG. FOLEY:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

So what do you want to do with this one?

LEG. FOLEY:

Table it.

MR. SABATINO:

There's a public hearing, so you're going to have to --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

So motion to table.

LEG. FOLEY:

Second.

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CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed. Tabled. (VOTE: 5 -0-0-0) TABLED

LEG. FOLEY:

Madam Chair, just a question.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Legislator Fields, I wanted to bring up something too before everybody leaves, but the Legislator is first.

LEG. FOLEY:
Go ahead.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:
You're sure?

LEG. FOLEY:
Sure.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:
There was a resolution on here last time, still flowing through the pipeline, regarding Smith Point.

LEG. FOLEY:
1337, that's the one I wanted to bring up.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:
Same wave length. And I know that there was a prior resolution earlier this year that I guess got stricken.

LEG. FOLEY:
Yes. That is what I was, in fact, going to bring up, if I may interrupt. I.R. 1337, and there's another one in the Public Works Committee, they're two separate bills. One has to do with the repavement of the whole parking lot, and 1337, which was stricken due to the six month rule, allocated four hundred thousand -- two different allocations for accommodation of seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars for planning and for restoration of Smith Point Park and County Park. And, in fact, I wanted to ask the same question as to whether you think we should bring it back or what would you like to do before the end of the year with it.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:
As of January 1, '03, I have no money in planning for Smith Point County Park and we need it. We are just about finished with the update to the master plan that we had charged Greenman Pedersen with.

LEG. FOLEY:
Yes.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:
As I said, that is just about completed. But in terms of moving forward with any planning for a new building, moving the building, updating buildings, I don't have any money for that and we're going to need that. And if we don't get it appropriated before the end of this calendar year, we lose it. So I'm going to speaking with the Budget

Office. I just wanted to bring that up to you today for your attention, that that may come in as a CN, I don't know how we handle it, I have to find that out.

LEG. FOLEY:

Madam Chair, if I may? Thank you, Commissioner, for bringing that up, because that's precisely the same issue that I wanted to discuss with you, being that that particular park is in my Legislative district and Legislator Towle has a commendable, commendable interest in the park as well since it's close to his mainland district.

With that said, whether we can use capital dollars for planning funds, whether it needs to be operating dollars, you know, if we speak after this meeting, we could also find out through BRO and you through the Budget Office what other mechanism we can use between now and the December 17th -- it will either be the December 5th general meeting or December 17th. We can lay something on the table on the 5th and then we can go through the committee process. And it's a bit of a dicy thing to wait till the 17th with the CN, but hopefully by the 5th we can have some resolution on how much money you need, what you need it for and then we can move forward properly to give you what you need to do, what you need to do next year.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

You need this by when?

LEG. FOLEY:

Before the end of the year.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

We have to appropriate it before the end of the year. It's in the capital budget now.

LEG. FOLEY:

It's in the capital budget now.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

But it has not been appropriated.

LEG. FOLEY:

Correct.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay.

LEG. FOLEY:

Part of the issue of the informative legislation, it wasn't only just

planning monies, also included in there was a skateboard park. And one of the issues was whether we wanted to have some sizeable capital projects approved prior to the finalization of the master plan. So, the idea was to let's get the master plan done before we move forward with some big ticket items, but combined in that same resolution were planning funds that they needed to do -- well, to finish the planning.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. So you have a plan now of what, of how you want to do this?

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COMMISSIONER GORDON:

No, but I'm going to come up with one, if not tomorrow, early next week.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. Okay. Motion to adjourn?

LEG. CARPENTER:

No, one thing.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Sorry.

LEG. CARPENTER:

I just want to state on the record, to thank the Commissioner and her staff for all of their work on Gardiner -- on Sagtikos Manor. We closed on the property November 7th, I believe the date was. And Judy and her staff have been working on making that transition. There was a meeting Wednesday, yesterday, was it yesterday? It seems like it was three weeks ago.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Wednesday.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Wednesday morning. And the community is so involved and energized and they're already talking about fund-raisers and hordes of volunteers who were anxious to get in there and do something. So it's really very, very exciting.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

We're hoping to tap that enthusiasm immediately.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Hopefully that will happen with Blue Point in 2003.

LEG. FOLEY:

Can we hold a Parks Committee meeting there? Is there a large enough room to do that?

LEG. CARPENTER:

At some point. We talked about that.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Legislator Carpenter said that.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Commissioner, I just met last night with actually two civic groups, they're from Islip, they're not really from West Islip or Bay Shore, but they're very interested in getting involving. So if you can keep my office informed, I'll keep them informed and they'd like to partner or work as volunteers or do fund-raisers, thing, like that. So I think this could be a very large group of people that can get involved

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here.

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

As it should be. And again, it's where it is, but it's a Countywide facility.

LEG. ALDEN:

That's what we were discussing last night. They were all thinking about they want to see children getting in there and being educated as far as our history and the history of Long Island and things like that.

LEG. FOLEY:

The Revolutionary War.

LEG. ALDEN:

I had one other comment too.

LEG. CARPENTER:

If I could just on that point, if you don't mind, Legislator Alden. I just wanted to let you know that the Islip Historical Society is part of the group that's been meeting. There was this loose umbrella group called the Committee to save Sagtikos Manor and Islip was participating in it, so you might want to mention that to the civics.

LEG. FOLEY:

Some of them are known as Revolutionary War roots. Perhaps since we've been fond of passing prohibitions, we can pass a law to prohibit

red coats from the building.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Legislator Alden, you had another comment.

LEG. ALDEN:

Just there was legislation that was alive last week and I guess it was stricken on the six month rule, and that was Legislator Caracciolo's, I guess cameras or some type of surveillance type of things, but I just want to point out that the Commissioner and I are working on developing some other types of maybe paths to go down where we can

put

some cash controls in place. And the Commissioner is in the process right now of putting together a report that will be shared with the Committee and then we can figure out which way to go.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Good.

LEG. FOLEY:

Just in that vein, if I may, because I mentioned to the former Commissioner that our Budget Review Office put together some very

good

cash controls that are required for a number of ferry operations and it's the same issue of a booth, cars going through to park at the ferries. And I had mentioned that Kevin, to Kevin Duffy that the Parks Department would be -- I think it would be advisable for the Park Departments to speak with Kevin Duffy to see whether or not the cash controls that we require at ferry operators, whether that same mechanism approach could be utilized within the Parks Department for

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their parking purposes.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

To add to that, Commissioner Gordon, I think a while ago I had -- I think I asked you if you could follow-up with Easy Pass, because I know that in some McDonald's you can drive through with your Easy

Pass

and your bill for your McDonald's goes on to the Easy Pass. And so I'm thinking that possibly, you know, I don't know what the cost is to Easy Pass for us, but, you know, maybe that's a way of --

COMMISSIONER GORDON:

Well, it couldn't hurt to look into it. And I don't think that would be something that maybe we would use everywhere, but a place like Smith Point, perhaps.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Right. So maybe you can let us know at the next meeting just what they have to say, how difficult it would be or what the cost would be. If the costs are too much, it's not worth it. Thanks.

Motion to adjourn. Thank you.

(THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:20 P.M.)

(DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY)